

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140443

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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140443

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, PR

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING MEMO FYI ONLY, SUPERSEDED BY STATE 139445
IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE TELEPHONED LUIS
AGRAIT, PUERTO RICAN DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO STATE US OPPOSITION AT APPARENT
PUERTO RICAN DESIRE TO HAVE A SEPARATE DELEGATION AT THE
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS
CONFERENCE.

2. BLAKE RECALLED EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH AGRAIT IN
WASHINGTON AT WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT US WOULD PUT
PUERTO RICANS ON DELEGATIONS TO CONFERENCE IN WHICH THEY
HAD AN INTEREST AND WOULD ALSO CONSIDER ON A CASE-BY-CASE
BASIS PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN RELEVANT INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, PRESENT PUERTO RICAN
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PAGE 02 STATE 140443

MOVES GO FAR BEYOND THAT AND IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FROM THE

US POINT OF VIEW, OR FROM THAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED.

3. MR. AGRAIT STATED PUERTO RICO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPRESENTED BY "OBSERVER DELEGATIONS" IN WHICH THEY SPOKE IN THEIR OWN NAME IN SOME ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS PAHO. (WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY THIS.) AMBASSADOR BLAKE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AND DID NOT THINK IT WAS CONSTITUTIONALLY APPROPRIATE. MR. AGRAIT ALSO SAID THAT THE PUERTO RICANS FEEL THAT UNLESS THEY ATTEND CARIBBEAN CONFERENCES AS A SEPARATE DELEGATION, THE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT PUERTO RICAN POSITION IN CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THIS COULD PREJUDICE PUERTO RICO'S POSITION THERE. BLAKE POINTED OUT THE SHARP DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ORGANIZATION IN WHICH PUERTO RICO WAS SEEKING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAD NO PROVISION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. AMBASSADOR BLAKE LEFT NO DOUBT IN MR. AGRAIT'S MIND THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE SEPARATE PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATION.

4. AGRAIT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD BE THE REACTION OF MR. ALBORS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BUT WOULD INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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